

What is claimed is:

- 1) A debris-catching system for impeding debris from entering pipe trench portions of a manhole catch basin having a round top with a first diameter, flat bottom portions extending over a first area having a second diameter larger than the first diameter, and pipe trench portions below the flat bottom portions, said system comprising, in combination:
 - a) substantially-rigid blocker means, supportable by the flat bottom portions and larger than the round top, for blocking debris from entering the pipe trench portions; and
 - b) fold means for folding said blocker means so as to permit entry of said blocker means, when folded, into the manhole catch basin through the round top;
 - c) support means for supporting said substantially-rigid blocker means and cooperating with at least one blocker lifting device; and
 - d) connector means for connecting said substantially-rigid blocker means with said at least one support.

- 2) A debris-catching system for impeding debris from entering pipe trench portions of a manhole catch basin having a round top with a first diameter, flat bottom portions extending over a first area having a second diameter larger than the first diameter, and pipe trench portions below the flat bottom portions, said system comprising, in combination:
- a) at least one substantially-rigid blocker, supportable by the flat bottom portions and larger than the round top, structured and arranged, when not folded and when supported by the flat bottom portions, to block debris from entering the pipe trench portions;
 - b) at least one hinge structured and arranged to permit folding of said at least one substantially-rigid blocker so as to permit entry of said at least one substantially-rigid blocker, when folded, through the round top;
 - c) at least one support structured and arranged to support said at least one substantially-rigid blocker and cooperate with at least one blocker lifting device; and
 - d) at least one connector structured and arranged to connect said at least one substantially-rigid blocker with said at least one support.

- 3) The debris-catching system according to Claim 2 wherein said at least one substantially-rigid blocker comprises at least one hinge connection having at least one hinge axis through a center of said at least one blocker to permit folding of said at least one substantially-rigid blocker along said at least one hinge axis.
- 4) The debris-catching system according to Claim 3 wherein said at least one connector and said at least one support are structured and arranged to open said at least one hinge upon lowering onto the manhole catch basin by the at least one blocker lifting device to properly place said at least one substantially-rigid blocker.
- 5) The debris-catching system according to Claim 3 wherein said at least one connector and said at least one support are structured and arranged to close said at least one hinge upon raising from the manhole catch basin by the at least one blocker lifting device of said at least one substantially-rigid blocker.
- 6) The debris-catching system according to Claim 4 wherein said at least one connector and said at least one support are structured and arranged to close said at least one hinge upon raising from the manhole catch basin by the at least one blocker lifting device of said at least one substantially-rigid blocker.

- 7) The debris-catching system according to Claim 6 wherein said at least one support comprises at least one flexible tensioner perpendicular to, adjacent to, and above said hinge axis.
- 8) The debris-catching system according to Claim 7 wherein said at least one flexible tensioner comprises a steel cable.
- 9) The debris-catching system according to Claim 7 wherein said at least one flexible tensioner is structured and arranged to support said at least one substantially-rigid blocker while being grabbed by the at least one blocker lifting device.
- 10) The debris-catching system according to Claim 7 further comprising at least one blocker lifting device structured and arranged to grab the at least one flexible tensioner.
- 11) The debris-catching system according to Claim 10 wherein said at least one lifting device comprises: at least one pole, having at least one hook, structured and arranged to removably grab the at least one flexible tensioner.
- 12) The debris-catching system according to Claim 8 wherein said at least one connector further comprises at least two eye-end bolts having said steel cable attached between each respective of said at least two eye-ends.

- 13) The debris-catching system according to Claim 11 wherein said at least one hinge connection comprises:
- a) three corrosion-resistant strap hinges; and
 - b) a plurality of corrosion-resistant bolts, corrosion-resistant washers, and corrosion-resistant nuts; and
 - c) at least one strap connector, placed across said hinge axis, structured and arranged to be grabbed by said at least one hook;
 - d) wherein said plurality of corrosion-resistant bolts, corrosion-resistant washers and corrosion-resistant nuts connects said corrosion-resistant strap hinges to said substantially-rigid blocker; and
 - e) wherein said at least one strap connector, when grabbed by said at least one hook, assists a user to place said substantially-rigid blocker in said open substantially-flat position.

- 14) A debris-catching system for impeding debris from entering pipe trench portions of a manhole catch basin having a round top with a first diameter, flat bottom portions extending over a first area having a second diameter larger than the first diameter, and pipe trench portions below the flat bottom portions, said system comprising, in combination:
- a) a substantially round blocker, wherein said blocker comprises,
 - i) at least one substantially-rigid structural material,
 - ii) two half-portions, and
 - iii) at least one hinge connection connecting said two half-portions;
 - b) wherein said substantially round blocker may be placed in a substantially folded position and in an open substantially-flat position,
 - c) wherein each said half-portion comprises an eye-end, each said eye-end having at least one wire attached between said eye-ends and being structured and arranged to place said blocker in a substantially folded position when said wire is pulled,
 - d) wherein said wire may be used in lifting and lowering said substantially round blocker when said substantially round blocker is in said substantially folded position; and

e) wherein said substantially round blocker, when in said open substantially-flat position, is structured and arranged to be able to substantially cover the pipe trench portions.

15) The debris-catching system according to Claim 14 wherein said at least one substantially round blocker has a diameter selected from the group consisting of:

a) diameters of about forty-four inches to about forty-eight inches;

b) diameters of about fifty-four inches to about sixty inches.

16) The debris-catching system according to Claim 14 wherein said at least one substantially-rigid structural material comprises High Density Polyethylene (HDPE).

17) A method of using a debris-catcher for impeding debris from entering pipe trench portions of a manhole catch basin having a round top with a first diameter, flat bottom portions extending over a first area having a second diameter larger than the first diameter, and pipe trench portions below the flat bottom portions wherein the debris catcher comprises a substantially round blocker comprising a substantially-rigid structural material, two half-portions, at least one hinge connection having a hinge axis and connecting the two half-portions, and wherein the blocker may be placed in a substantially folded position or in an open substantially-flat position, and wherein each such half-portion comprises at least one flexible tensioner, perpendicular to said hinge axis, being structured and arranged to support said at least one substantially round blocker while being grabbed by at least one blocker rigid lifting device, comprising the steps of:

- a) selecting a debris-catcher having such desired diameter of such required end size structured and arranged to substantially cover such pipe trench portions below such flat bottom portions when opened to a substantially-flat position;

- b) grabbing such at least one flexible tensioner with such at least one blocker rigid lifting device and lifting and lowering such folded debris-catcher through such top of such manhole and down through such manhole catch basin to such flat bottom portions;
- c) un-attaching such at least one blocker rigid lifting device from such debris-catcher;
- d) unfolding such debris-catcher such that such debris-catcher is opened with such hinges facing upward toward such top of such manhole;
- e) aligning such hinge axis so that most of such hinge axis is supported by such flat bottom portions; and
- f) placing such rigid lifting device against at least one hinge and pressing such debris catcher into a substantially-flat position.